

Emma Macleod

Visual Artist Statement & CV

Brief Bio:

Emma Macleod is a visual artist from the Isle of Lewis, now living and working in Edinburgh, Scotland. She graduated from Grays School of Art in 2007 and has since exhibited and screened work both nationally and internationally. Her practice includes sculpture, video, performance, drawing & model-making. Her interests are grounded in the absurd, humorous and the uncanny. She is influenced by our interactions and wonderment with nature, ideas around birth and metamorphosis and the awkwardness of the body in performance.

Artist Statement:

I am a visual artist working predominantly in sculpture; however, my practice has also encompassed video, performance, photography, drawing & model-making. Over the years my work has evolved as my practice has developed, however there has always been a constant interest in playing on scale and exploring absurd and uncanny qualities.

I have an interest in the natural environment and our interactions and wonderment with nature. Organic shapes and forms such as gourds, cocoons & bird eggs, inspired a body of work where I explored vessels and pouring liquid. This body of work slowly morphed into site-specific outdoor installations: bird like pots spewing bright colours perched in a tree, egg forms with uncanny growing tendrils, a bird dancing absurdly in the woods...

In recent works, I have been exploring the body and moments of quietness, exhaustion, and feelings of being stuck or trapped. Influenced by doll-making techniques, limbs emerge from bodies smothered in felted cocoon-like forms or trapped in poured plaster perched on tree-like islands. I become a mother in 2019 and this experience, and ideas around birth, parenthood, mental health, childhood, playfulness, and metamorphosis have inspired me.

CV

Web: www.emmamacleod.co.uk

Born: Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, 1985 **Lives & works:** Edinburgh, Scotland

Education: **Gray's School of Art, The Robert Gordon University BA (Hons) Printmaking, 2003-2007**

Awards

- 2018 AN Bursary – for developing collaborative working practise
- 2017 RSA Benno Schotz Prize at RSA Open – for most promising work by an artist under 35
- 2016 RSA Open Exhibition External Award – WASPS, two week residency at The Steeple in Newburgh.
- 2015 Edinburgh Visual Art Award – to develop new work
- 2013 RSA Ottilie Helen Wallace Prize - for work by a female sculptor
- 2011 Creative Scotland Professional Development Award – to develop new work
- 2011 Arts Trust Scotland award – to develop new work
- 2010 Edinburgh Visual Art Award to attend the Digital Video Editing Course at Stills
- 2008 Invited graduate artist for The Society of Scottish Artists annual exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy

Exhibitions, Screenings & Events

- 2023 **A New Primer**, group exhibition at St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, Aug 2023
- The Witches Dance**, group exhibition at Sett Studios, Leith, Edinburgh, May 2023.

- 2022 **Foikflaw**, group exhibition at Sett Studios, Leith, Edinburgh, October 2022.
More than a Muse, group exhibition at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, March 2022
- 2021 **Knicknackered**, group exhibition, Leith, Edinburgh, October 2021.
Outbound, group exhibition at Out of the Blue, Edinburgh, August 2021
- 2019 **Pizza Zine**, group exhibition at Sett Studios, Bonnyrigg, June 2019
Settle Doon, group exhibition at Sett Studios, Bonnyrigg, March 2019
- 2018 **Signals**, group exhibition at EDS Gallery, Edinburgh Nov 2018
Create to Move Residency at The Steeple, Newburgh, Fife, supported by AN bursary, October 2018
Create to Move Residency at St Margaret's House, supported by Edinburgh Palette & AN Bursary, July 2018
On Death, Screening part of event by Estoerica Art, Norfolk, May 2018
- 2017 **Create to Move Mini-Residency**, development residency in collaboration with Fiona Hermse & Emma Snellgrove, St Margaret's House, supported by Edinburgh Palette, Dec 2017
Art Bites, Artist talk for the Friends of the RSA, Royal Scottish Academy, Oct 2017
Create to Move at GOMA, 1 day workshop & performance with Emma Snellgrove, youth dancers & invited artists. Part of "Cancelled" exhibition community events programme, supported by the Work Room, Glasgow, Sept 2017
Edgelands, collaborative outdoor installation with Abi Lewis including a performance event with storyteller Daniel Allison and audio guide at Meadows Yard Nature Reserve. Art Walk Party, Edinburgh, Sept 2017
Poor Form, sculptural installation, place+platform in partnership with Edinburgh Beer Factory at The Arches, Edinburgh, Aug 2017
RSA Open Exhibition 2017, photos exhibited at Royal Scottish Academy (awarded RSA Benno Schotz Prize)
Reject, Respond, Repurpose, animation created from repurposed art in a junk shop on Leith Walk, place+platform, supported by the Settlement Projects, Edinburgh, Aug 2017
Pics or it Didn't Happen, group exhibition exploring pics on the fringes of mainstream representation, place+platform at Leith Walk Police Box, supported by Leith Late17, June 2017
P:Arty, Artist Talk about site-specific practice, Art Walk Party, May 2017
Pointlessly Long Descriptive Title, performance of 'Behold the Pothead' in group exhibition at PatrioHall, Edinburgh, March 2017.
- 2016 **WASPS residency**, two week funded residency at The Steeple, Newburgh, Nov 2016.
Art Walk Party, site-specific outdoor installation in Abercorn Park. Edinburgh. Sept 2016.
The Never-ending Glen, outdoor site-specific installations created for the glen in Kelburn Castle & Estate and coinciding with Kelburn Garden Party. Curated by Sophia Burns. Largs, Ayrshire, Summer 2016.
RSA Open Exhibition 2016, video screened at Royal Scottish Academy (awarded the WASPS Residency award), Aug 2016.
Poor Art, group exhibition at The Settlement Projects. Organised by place + platform, supported by LeithLate16 and Embassy Annuale, Edinburgh, 2016.
Creep Me Oot, video screening in a group exhibition, organised by artist collective Naked Aye, St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, April 2016.
Residency: Gallery 1, group developmental residency & exhibition, St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, Feb 2016.
Bring Your Own Beamer, organised by Place + Platform at St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, Jan 2016
- 2015 **Residency: Gallery 3**, developmental mini residency & exhibition hosted by Edinburgh Palette, St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, Dec 2015
Paths, site-specific installation as part of a group exhibition at The Biscuit Factory, Edinburgh, Nov 2015
Party Art Walk, site-specific installation at Portobello Beach, Edinburgh, Sept 2015
TARDIS, solo exhibition at Leith Walk Police Box, part of Embassy Gallery's Annuale Festival 2015, Edinburgh, June 2015

- We(e) Object**, group exhibition of sculptural works at St Margaret's House, Edinburgh, May 2015
V:ast, Visual Art Scotland open exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, Feb 2015
- 2014 **Line of Best Fit** group exhibition and music event within a junk shop in Leith, organised by Place+Platform, Nov 2014
Vault 23, video & sculptural installation within a club night, organised by Project Space at Mash House, Edinburgh, August 2014.
Hidden Door Festival, installation at an art & music festival in abandoned vaults on Market Street, Edinburgh, March 2014
Open Viewing, a group exhibition within the context of a flat on the market, Edinburgh, March 2014
Bring Your Own Beamer, screening at The Sculpture Court, Edinburgh College of Art, curated by Agnes Gryczkowska & Alexander Johnston, January 2014
- 2013 **RSA Open 2013**, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh (awarded RSA Otillie Helen Wallace Prize - for work by a female sculptor)
Realitatsqualitaten, a two person show by Emma Macleod and Bartholomaeus Kinner, supported by and exhibited at Periscope:Project:Space, Salzburg, Austria
Abstract Movement, screening at Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh
Ardent Form, group exhibition by Resonate Collective at McNaughtan's Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2012 **Sonica Flicks**, screening at the CCA, Glasgow part of Sonica Festival
Resonate, group exhibition by Resonate Collective at Coburg Gallery, Edinburgh
Elbow Room, pop-up exhibition @ Montgomery Terrace during Edinburgh Fringe
Arts Complex Summer Show, selected artists working in the Arts Complex Studios, Edinburgh
Fictitious: An Exhibition by S.H.A.M, an online project part of Embassy Gallery's Annuale Festival 2012 shamgallery.wordpress.com
Lightworks 2012 –screening at festival of sound & moving image work in Grimsby, England
- 2011 **Simulacra**, group exhibition at Elysium Gallery, Swansea, Wales
Type/Script, group exhibition at Ormskirk Gallery, Lancashire, England
- 2010 **Artist Showcase: Emma Macleod**, an exhibition of new work at Timespan Gallery, Helmsdale.
Space Made Live, a group exhibition by Small Media Large at The Arthouse, Glasgow
Sketchbook, a group exhibition by Glasgow PodCart at Welcome Home Gallery, Glasgow
Police & Thieves, a group exhibition by Occupy My Time, The Old Police Station, New Cross, London
Cant and Camber, Emma Macleod and Lucy Turner with a performance event by Anna Henson. Ugly Duckling Exhibitions, Glasgow.
- 2009 **New Highland Graduates**, Inverness Museum & Art Gallery, St Fergus Gallery & Swanson Gallery.
Arts Complex Launch Exhibition, Arts Complex, Edinburgh
The Society of Scottish Artists Annual Exhibition, Dundee
Aberdeen Artist Society Exhibition', Aberdeen Art Gallery
Royal Scottish Academy Spring Show 2009, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
Visual Arts Scotland Annual Open Exhibition, Edinburgh
- 2008 **Christmas Exhibition**, Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen
Printmaking Portfolios 2006 & 2007, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
The Society of Scottish Artists Annual Exhibition 2008, The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
Reveal 2008, Edinburgh Printmakers
- 2007 **Degree Show 2007**, Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen
Aberdeen Artists Society Exhibition, Aberdeen Art Gallery
FPAL Exhibition, Aberdeen University Elphinstone Hall

Producing & Event Organising Experience:

- **Company Manager at Arika** www.arika.org.uk
2014 - present
Producing a bi-annual social political arts festival called Episodes. Including input on key decisions around the delivery of the programme, including artist liaison, marketing, press and overall budget management.
- **Organising Member of place + platform** www.placeandplatform.com
2016-2019
place+platform is a nomadic Edinburgh based collective creating cross-artform events in a variety of structures, spaces and settings. We assist artists, makers, musicians and performers to showcase their work.
- **Member of Create to Move Collective** <https://www.tumblr.com/dashboard/blog/createtomove>
2018-2019
Artistic member of Create to Move; a collaborative practice between Emma Macleod (visual artist), Fiona Hermse (visual artist, jeweller & community artist) and Emma Snellgrove (choreographer & dancer). Key to our practice is a shared interest in exploring movement and the body through a multi-media practice that centres research and development process.
- **Exhibiting Artist and Committee Member of Art Walk Porty** <http://www.artwalkporty.co.uk>
2016-2019
Annual art walk by Edinburgh's seaside at Portobello, combining outdoor artworks with events based activities

Collections

Work in various private collections.

Publications/ Press

Art Mag Cover – image of 'Drip, Drip, Drip' artwork featured on front cover of Art Mag, August/September 2016 issue.

'What to see at The Embassy Gallery's Annuale 2015' by Rossie Lesso, The List; for TARDIS solo exhibition part of Embassy Gallery's Annuale 2015. Featured event & image of sculpture 'Orange Flow'.

<https://www.list.co.uk/article/71621-what-to-see-at-the-embassy-gallery-s-annuale-2015/>

'Top ten things to do in Scotland 25th June – 2 July', by Anna Docherty, The Skinny; for TARDIS solo exhibition part of Embassy Gallery's Annuale 2015. Online article & included in Zap Top Ten email newsletter.

<http://www.theskinny.co.uk/things-to-do/scotland/things-to-do-scotland-25-jun-2-jul-phyllida-barlow-ela-orleans-terminator>

'Hidden Delights', by Neil Cooper, The List, 21st March 2014; featured artist as part of Hidden Door preview.

Featured Artist on Central Station blog, 2013

'Summer Show at Art's Complex, Edinburgh', featured on Aesthetica Magazine's Blog. Image used in article. 31st July 2012 <http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/first-summer-show-at-arts-complex-edinburgh/>

'Central Station book' – image featured in book. Published 2011

'New Highland Graduates: Georgina Coburn examines the new work on offer from Highland graduates', www.hi-arts.co.uk, 1st September 2009, exhibition review

'A Clamour of Voices Deserving to be Heard', degree show review The Scotsman, 10th April 2008

'Rich Promise and the plus of Paint', degree show review in The Scotsman, 22nd June 2007